

RED TAIL FLYER

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Controllers make most of temporary situation

By Senior Airman Shaun Emery

332nd AEW Public Affairs

In many deployed locations, temporary quarters are commonplace. Taking that to a whole new level, air traffic controllers from the 332nd Expeditionary Airfield Operations Squadron have set up residence in a plywood tower nicknamed the "tree house."

"When we arrived around the December and January time frame for Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation three and four, a renovation project on the existing tower was already scheduled," said Capt. James Anderson, 332nd EAOS flight commander. "We inherited the plan, had to fine tune it and implement it."

In two weeks, the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron constructed an alternate tower out of plywood. Airfield operations coordinated with 332nd Communications Squadron to get contingency equipment connected to the tower.

According to Capt. Anderson, the location of the new tower required a remote system to be implemented.

"We were the first ones to use the remoting kit for the MSN-7," said Chief Master Sgt. Mike Hanning, 332nd EAOS chief controller. "And we're the first to use it at full distance, so we've expanded the capability over what has been done before."

"We couldn't have done this without the CE and comm squadrons," explained Capt. Anderson. "Their support was phenomenal. We basically moved from a large fixed facility to a very small facility with no degradation in service or capability."

Based on traffic count, Balad's tower is the busiest air control tower in the active-duty Air Force, averaging 13,000 operations

per month.

The controllers quickly formed a bond, which could only come from working through a difficult situation.

"Working in the new tower built camaraderie among controllers," said Chief Master Sgt. Mike Hanning. "Working in such tight quarters, people have to get to know each other," he said. "Being in a combat environment really cemented that bond."

Chief Manning said he often hears that today's generation of controllers is not as good as previous ones.

Many people assume today's Airmen have it easy. Chief Manning will argue that today's controllers are far better than their predecessors.

"These Airmen are smarter more adaptable and more capable of getting mission done no matter what the challenge," he said. "Doing this job in the temporary tower was

See TOWER, Page 4



U.S. Air Force photo

The "tree house" which temporarily replaced the main aircraft control tower is made of 6,000 pounds of wood. The tower allowed controllers to maintain airfield operations during renovations.



U.S. Air Force photo

A C-130 passes by the temporary air control tower nicknamed the "tree house" as it taxis down the runway at Balad AB, Iraq. The tower was set up to sustain flying missions while crews renovate the existing Iraqi tower.

Mobility bag test case begins

By Capt. David Small

*U.S. Central Air Forces Forward
Public Affairs*

SOUTHWEST ASIA - Airmen will be returning home a little lighter from this Air Expeditionary Force rotation. A new test, pre-positioning mobility bags in theater, began Monday, potentially saving millions of dollars.

To make the deployable Air Force more agile and address concerns of people hand-carrying too many bags into the U.S. Central Command theater, the Air Force approved this test, according to a message from the Air Force Installations and Logistics directorate.

The plan, proposed by U.S. Central Command Air Forces, boasts a savings estimated at \$5.1 million per AEF, Air Force officials said. This savings stems from \$70 per bag excess baggage cost and \$1,600 per seat cost for empty seats that can't be filled due to the surplus luggage weight.

This idea has bounced around at least since 1998 when a supply manager from Operation Southern Watch suggested it, but it couldn't be implemented until now, said Maj. Paulette Jordan, USCENTAF chief of supply at Shaw AFB, S.C. She was part of the USCENTAF team who helped reinvigorate the idea.

"The reality of our extended stay in the region and the fact that units identified storage locations from existing resources made it a reality at this time," she said. "Previous efforts were solely dependent on permanent construction, some of which wasn't projected until 2009."

This test calls for redeploying Airmen in AEF 3/4 and 5/6 to turn in their mobility bags (A and B bags) and their chemical warfare equipment (C bag) to theater materiel managers before leaving the theater. This equipment will be stored at the three expeditionary theater distribution centers located at primary hubs in Southwest Asia.

"If we go to full implementation, (incoming Airmen) will be able to go to these centers and receive whatever bags they need based on their location and the season," Major Jordan said. "One of the things that the test will help us to work out will be the



Photo by Master Sgt. Carolyn Gwathmey

Staff Sgt. Cameron Marshall, left, Combined Air Operations Center, turns in his mobility gear to Tech. Sgt. Paul Roby, 379 Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. "I'll take this any day over hauling all this gear back home," Sergeant Marshall said.

process to issue and control these assets, particularly during the rotation."

The center maintained by the 379th AEW is a 50,000 square foot facility, but will be outfitted with four tiers, expanding its storage space to 200,000 square feet. The other two centers will be maintained by the 376th and 386th AEWs. All deployed Airmen will turn in their equipment as they pass through these hubs, with a few exceptions.

Airmen will not turn in weapons, gas masks or individual body armor. There is a lack of storage space and security concerns for the weapons. Body armor purchased by major commands will be returned to them, however IBA issued in theater will stay here. Some Airmen are not part of this test, including people assigned to Pacific Air Forces, Air Force Special Operations, Air Force Reserve commands and the Air National Guard.

Battlefield Airmen, aircrew, security forces, Red Horse civil engineers and air control squadron members will also not participate because they deploy with special

equipment.

Airmen redeploying from the 380th AEW and deploying to Dushanbe, Ashgabat and Djibouti will travel with their equipment according to their reporting instructions. If the test proves successful, the initiative will be expanded to other AEFs until one full AEF's worth of equipment is pre-positioned. Until that time, Airmen should follow the reporting instructions.

"It's going to be a huge step forward, reducing the footprint of deploying troops," said Chief Master Sgt. John Foran, USCENTAF command chief. "It'll be better on our troops to pick up their gear before they go into (an active combat) zone. It's an outstanding system."

Airmen within 10 days of departure now are allowed to turn in their equipment. One Airman scheduled to return home Sunday was excited about the test and immediately turned in her equipment after work yesterday after the announcement.

See MO-BAGS, Page 5

Construction gurus

By Senior Airman Shaun Emery
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Designers and builders on the Learning Channel have nothing on a group of civil engineers that make up the 1st



Expeditionary Red Horse Group. The group is comprised of Air Force Guard and Reserve members from all over the United States. The group is currently working on three new K-Span buildings that will house their unit as well as the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.

"We're moving from our facility to make room for more aircraft on the flightline," said 1st Lt. Brian Speers, Red Horse officer in charge.

Craftsmen from all areas of civil engineering make up the Red Horse Group. The group will complete all exterior and interior work, ranging from insulation, electrical, heating and ventilation work.

"Sign me up again," said Staff Sgt. Steve Smith. "We can't do this type of stuff at home."

Senior Airman Terence Sheridan, 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group, guides a piece of roofing material that has been formed into a curve by an automated building machine at the civil engineer industrial complex Tuesday.



Photos by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Master Sgt. Wendell Key, left, and Tech. Sgt. Ray Maddess, 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group secure a board used as a harness to lift the K-Span roof into place.



Staff Sgt. Steve Smith, 1st Expeditionary Red Horse Group, applies insulation to the wall of a new K-Span building.

Mishap Reduction – AEF 5/6 Goals

By Lt. Col. Beav McGlaughlin and
Maj Brad Egginton

332nd AEW Chief of Safety

The Secretary of Defense has set a goal for all services to reduce mishaps by 50 percent from FY03 levels. Safety is critical at Balad Air Base and directly affects the mission.

We cannot afford to lose any members or the capabilities they provide to a preventable accident. Wing Safety challenges you to the following AEF 5/6 goals:

- Zero Red Tail personnel induced Class A* or B* flight, ground or weapons mishaps

- 50 percent reduction in Red Tail personnel induced reportable mishaps

- 50 percent reduction in Red Tail personnel induced sports and recreation mishaps

The most common cause of Class A and Class B mishaps in the AOR are failure to follow technical order guidance or failure to properly assess mission risks.

This is exacerbated by an "I'm in combat mentality," over aggressiveness and complacency. The most common response to investigators during AOR accident reports is: "the rules don't apply, we're in combat." Nothing could be further from the truth. The rules

apply even during combat. Air Force members have trained long and hard to get here and the wing needs their capabilities to maintain combat mission effectiveness and continue its outstanding heritage.

In combat, every level of supervision will carefully weigh risks against benefits. Clearly, launch of an alert mission to support troops in contact is more likely to lead supervisors to accept greater risk than the launch of a training sortie at home station during peacetime.

However, the process is the same. Assess the environment for risk; consider the options for limiting that risk; and take the appropriate action. The key is proper analysis at the appropriate level of supervision to determine the best course of action.

You will be challenged during your time in Iraq. Success in reaching wing goals and achieving the secretary's mandate will be had, if every member of Team Balad follows tech order guidance, uses professional and personal risk management, and remembers the rule – if it doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.

For more information on mishap prevention and operational risk management in a combat zone talk to your Commander, unit safety representative or call Wing Safety at 443-6111/6257.



The following Balad Airmen were selected for promotion to the rank of major.

Capt. Gregory Banfield,
332nd Expeditionary Communications
Squadron

Capt. Robert Barry Jr.,
727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron

Capt. Mark Marus,
332nd ECS

Capt. Chad Morgan,
4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Flight

Capt. Karl Westerlund,
64th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron

Capt. George Wyse,
510th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron

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quite a challenge."

It can be argued that the situation was a blessing in disguise.

"We have been able to make positives out of this opportunity because people have learned what they're capable of and what the equipment is capable of while keeping mission focus," said Chief Manning. "Our Airmen are leaving as better controllers. They know they've worked more aircraft movements than anyone else in the Air Force."

Big state-of-the-art facilities may make work easier or more comfortable, but the lessons learned and the camaraderie gained by the controllers in AEF 3/4 will benefit them though out their careers.



U.S. Air Force photo

U.S. Army Specialist Harry Gaines from the 1-245th ATS Battalion, left, and Senior Airman Heather Rodgers conduct control tower operations.

Air Force surprise thwarted by Army private

By Senior Airman Shaun Emery
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Often, Airmen deploying overseas have the fortune of running into old friends from past bases and technical schools. Last week that good fortune brought together two people with a more significant bond.

Staff Sgt. Shannon Knorr, Joint Special Operations Air Detachment supply Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge received short-notice orders to deploy to Balad. Knowing that her step-sister, Army Private 1st Class, Rebecca Dever, 18th Aviation Brigade aviation specialist, was already serving a tour in Iraq, Sergeant Knorr and her family decided to keep her deployment a secret.

"We thought it would be a nice surprise. We hadn't seen each other in eight months," said Sergeant Knorr.

There was also a chance the orders could change, and Sgt. Knorr didn't want to get Private Dever's hopes up.

After arriving on station, Sergeant Knorr got together with her first sergeant to see if she could help locate her sister.

"People are my business," said Master Sgt. Bobbie Kendall, JSOAD first sergeant. "It was important to her, so it was important to me. Family is a very important part of everyone's morale and having a family member at a deployed location helps relieve stress."

"In the meantime, I went to dinner at Dining Facility four and, on my way to get dessert, she spotted me," said Sgt. Knorr. "She was beyond surprised."

"I was overwhelmed," said Private Dever. "I never thought this would happen."

The sisters now see each other almost every day. They meet for meals at DFAC four and talk about their days.

The sisters were able to call home together and wish their mother a happy Mother's Day.

"She loves hearing from us no matter what day it is, but I think it was extra special to be able to speak with both of us," said Sgt. Knorr.

Being far away from home can be hard, but for Sergeant Knorr and Private Dever, home now feels that much closer.



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

Private 1st Class Rebecca Dever, left, and her step-sister Staff Sgt. Shannon Knorr visit each other during dinner at DFAC four. Sergeant Knorr received short notice orders to Balad AB, Iraq, where the two were able to meet.

MO-BAGS continued from Page 2

"It is such a relief I'm not going to have to lug those heavy bags all the way back to Schriever," said Staff Sgt. Nadia Smith, an information manager in the Combined Air Operations Center. "I know the Air Force is going to save loads of money, but this has obvious benefit to all Airmen too."

Col. Peaches Kavanaugh, USCENTAF Forward chief of logistics, said the word is spreading quickly and appears to be a huge morale booster for Airmen.

She had heard that there were over 40 people in line at the 379th AEW at midnight waiting to turn in their bags.

Balad AB Tobacco Cessation Program

Four-session program meets weekly on Wednesdays* from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Expeditionary Medical Squadron Clinic (Across From DFAC 2).

Zyban and Nicotine Patches are available for those medically qualified.

May Dates: 18, 25, and June 1

June Dates: 8, 15, 22, 29

July Dates: 4, 11, 18, 25

August Dates: 1, 8, 15, 22

September Dates: 5, 12, 19

Call Life Skills at 443-7306 for more information.

Deployed Airmen witness history

By Maj. Dean Judge

332nd Expeditionary
Maintenance Squadron commander

Has anyone ever asked you where you were when a significant historical event took place? For those of you in AEF 3/4, when someone asks you where you were when the Iraqi people turned out in large numbers to establish a democracy, you will be able to say you were in Iraq making a difference. You were a witness to history January 30, 2005.

You came here not only to support the Global War on Terrorism, but to protect the freedom of the Iraqi people and help them achieve their dream of a free society. The Iraqis

sought to hold elections that would advance the development of a constitution which would embrace the freedoms and principles of a democratic system of government. They want a representative government committed to peace, stability, and democracy in Iraq.

The sacrifices you have made here while separated from your families and friends, have helped the Iraqi people begin their road to democracy.

The Iraqi people suffered greatly during more than three decades of Ba'athist tyranny. They are no strangers to violence and intimidation.

So, despite threats of violence, Iraqis sought to shape their future by exercising their right to vote, and you were here

to make sure they were able to achieve that right. They traveled from everywhere across the country and showed up in large numbers to vote.

One vision that will always be with me is the smiling faces of Iraqi men and women as they held their purple stained fingers toward the sky.

The men and women coming to Iraq after you will appreciate what you have accomplished and build upon your achievements.

They too will witness history being made as the Iraqi people continue to achieve the freedoms they have longed for these past three decades.

Every person who comes to Balad will play a role in history that someday your children or

their children will read about in books.

As our AEF rotation comes to an end, I look back and appreciate the fact that I was here to witness history being made. What you have accomplished will be in the history books. Don't let this accomplishment disappear from your memories when you return home.

I encourage you to share your accomplishments with your fellow Airmen, your family, your church, your local community and your schools.

Be proud of what you have accomplished and know that you have made history and walked in the footsteps of the Tuskegee Airmen and upheld their great legacy.

Airmen allowed to show service colors while traveling

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — A new Air Force policy gives Airmen the choice to show their colors when traveling to and from deployment locations.

Under a new policy, Airmen now have the option to wear their desert combat uniform on those flights. Airmen traveling to and from the U.S. Central Command Air Forces' area of responsibility have been, until recently, required to wear civilian clothing on flights in and out of the area.

The policy change came after suggestions to both the chief of staff and chief master sergeant of the Air Force, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, the Air Force's uniform board superintendent.

"This started with queries to Air Force senior (leaders) as they toured the AOR," Sergeant Athnos said. "This was about pride. Other services were coming home in uniform and experiencing tremendous support along the way from the American public.

“**They simply want the country to know they are proud of their service too.**”

Master Sgt. Dana Athnos
Air Force Uniform Board
superintendent

Our Airmen were in civilian clothes, and people didn't readily recognize them as Air Force personnel. They simply want the country to know they are proud of their service too.”

The new policy allows Airmen to wear their uniforms when traveling inside the United States to their port of departure, so long as they fly aboard a U.S.-based airline. Airmen may also wear their uniforms when traveling to the AOR if they are flying on a military or chartered commercial aircraft. The same rules apply when Airmen come home.

One concern for policy makers is that

Airmen remember to conduct themselves as true Air Force professionals. Sergeant Athnos said Airmen are reminded that their uniforms must always be clean and serviceable; they must be in compliance with dress and appearance instructions and always conduct themselves in a manner befitting the Air Force.

Some Airmen might want to wear their uniforms when traveling to a deployed location, but are afraid of drawing unnecessary attention to themselves.

"Besides, if you were in civilian clothes, you would still have your web gear and your mobility bags with you, and you are still hanging around the (United Services Organization)," she said. "It's not a secret that you are in the military."

Also, part of the policy is a requirement that Airmen carry a change of civilian clothes with them if they choose to wear a uniform, and a clean uniform if they choose to wear civilian clothes.

That kind of preparedness allows Airmen to adjust their appearance should the situation demand it.

Defense News

Committee reviewing military pay package

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — A new committee is studying the military compensation system to come up with ways to bring it more in line with what servicemembers want and operational needs demand.

The defense advisory committee on military compensation held its first public meeting May 11 to explain how Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld asked them to take a look at the current system and recommend how to make it better.

The committee will look at the whole compensation program for people in the active and reserve components, said retired Navy Adm. Donald Pilling, committee chairman and former vice chief of naval operations.

This includes basic, special and incentive pays; benefits ranging from housing to medical care; and deferred pay that includes retirement pay and survivor benefits, he said.

The committee will attempt to strike the best balance between cash and benefits, current and deferred compensation, and the need for flexibility during peacetime as well as war, Admiral Pilling said.

It will also consider the best way to compensate Guardsmen and Reservists who are deploying frequently to support military operations, he said.

The goal is to ensure the armed forces continue to attract and retain top-quality, highly motivated people and to ensure they and their families receive the compensation they deserve. That is particularly important when they are burdened by multiple deployments and family separations, Admiral Pilling said.

One issue the committee will deal with is that many servicemembers are more interested in cash in hand than retirement or other benefits.

"They tend to value current compensation more than compensation that they will not receive for 10 or 20 years, or maybe not at all," he said.

Retirement benefits become more important later in a servicemembers' career, when they become critical to military retention, Admiral Pilling said.

During meetings May 10 with service leaders, committee members heard "a range of views about specific changes" in the compensation package, all to be considered during the committee's deliberations, he said.

But one particular message came through loud and clear.

"All asked for an architecture that allows flexibility rather than mandatory changes in compensation," Admiral Pilling said.

Flexibility will be a key goal as the military undergoes its longest period of sustained conflict since the all-volunteer force was conceived in the early 1970s, he said.

The committee plans to present Secretary Rumsfeld an interim report of its recommendations by late September and the final report in April 2006, officials said. The next of its public meetings is scheduled for June 7.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Senior Airman Leejuan Davis

Home station: Shaw AFB, S.C.

Unit: 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

Hobbies: Playing piano

How do you contribute to the mission? I assist the commander with day to day wing operations.

What is your favorite aspect of deployment? Gaining job experience in deployed environment.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? I miss going out on the weekends.

From the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
First Sergeant:

If authorized to wear a flag on your uniforms, they must be the full color flags. This is DOD policy. Colored flags are available at base supply.



Air Force Religious Schedule

Protestant- Traditional

Sundays:
7:30 a.m. Hospital, 9:30 a.m. Provider
Chapel, 11 a.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Gospel

Sundays
11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30
Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider
Chapel

Protestant- Praise and Worship

Sundays
9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 10
a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m.
Tuskegee Chapel, 6:30 p.m. MWR Tent
29th SPT BN

Wednesdays
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant - Contemporary

Sundays
10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m.
Town Hall,

Latter Day Saints

Sundays
1p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee
Chapel

Liturgical- Protestant

Sundays
8 a.m. Provider Chapel

Samoan Congregational Service

Sundays
4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 min prior
to Mass

Wednesdays
11 a.m. Air Force Hospital

Saturdays
5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m.
Reconciliation by appointment)

Sundays
8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 9 a.m.
Tuskegee Chapel, 11 a.m. Provider
Chapel, 3:30 p.m. "626" Chapel (for
Special Ops personnel only)
Mondays - Fridays: 7 p.m. Tuskegee
Chapel

Church of Christ

Sunday
11 a.m. Aviation Village 1, 1-245
ATS/Conf. room

Islamic Prayer

Fridays
13:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Fridays
6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex

Know what this is?



Photo by Senior Airman Shaun Emery

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the 332nd Expeditionary Services Squadron. Last week's photo of a padlock was first identified by Master Sgt. Robert A. Michel, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing historian.

Sustainer movie schedule



Schedule is subject to change

Today, May 20

3 p.m. - Be Cool
6 p.m. - House of Wax
9 p.m. - Star Wars Episode III

Saturday, May 21

3 p.m. - Be Cool
6 p.m. - Star Wars Episode III
9 p.m. - House of Wax

Sunday, May 22

3 p.m. - Be Cool
6 p.m. - House of Wax
9 p.m. - Star Wars Episode III

Monday, May 23

3 p.m. - XXX: State of the Union

6 p.m. - Million Dollar Baby
9 p.m. - Star Wars Episode III

Tuesday, May 24

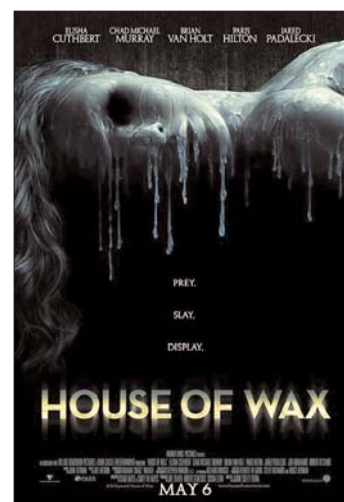
3 p.m. - Star Wars Episode III
6 p.m. - House of Wax
9 p.m. - XXX: State of the Union

Wednesday, May 25

3 p.m. - Constantine
6 p.m. - Star Wars Episode III
9 p.m. - Million Dollar Baby

Thursday, May 26

3 p.m. - House of Wax
6 p.m. - Be Cool
9 p.m. - Star Wars Episode III



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